



VA
HEALTH
CARE

Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century



Research Day

May 16, 2014

VA Research

Making A Difference!

Malcom Randall VA Medical Center
Gainesville, FL
Auditorium

8:30 – 9:00
9:00 – 11:30
11:30 – 12:30

Meet and Greet
Speakers and Presentations
Research Poster Exhibit

Program

- 8:30 a.m.** “Meet and Greet” – Meet our VA leadership, speakers and staff and enjoy delicious refreshments
- 9:00 a.m.** Program Opening
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| Welcome | Helen A. Vaillancourt, BA, Event Coordinator |
| Pledge of Allegiance | Charles Oden, Lieutenant, United States Navy (1982-2002) |
| Musical Tribute | Lola DeBose, Sergeant, United States Army (1983-1992) |
| ACOS Comments | Stephen Nadeau, MD, Associate Chief of Staff/Research |
| Chief of Staff Comments | Bradley S. Bender, MD, Chief of Staff, NF/SGVHS |
| Director Comments | Thomas Wisnieski, MPA, FACHE, Director, NF/SGVHS |
| VISN 8 Comments | Joleen Clark, FACHE, VISN 8 Network Director |
| Video | VA National Research Week |
- 9:30 a.m.** *Executive Vice President for Research and Education, UF Health* **Thomas A. Pearson, MD, MPH, PhD**
Building on the success of the 2010–2015 Strategic Plan, “Forward Together,” the 2015–2020 Strategic Plans for Research will engage its stakeholders, including the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System, to create, improve programs for research discovery, dissemination, and training at the University of Florida Health Science Center.
- 9:40 a.m.** *The SNORE Study – Do Sleep Problems Affect Kidney Function?* **Muna Canales, MD**
Dr. Canales will provide an overview of an ongoing VA funded 3-year study of NF/SGVHS Veterans with kidney disease. This study will determine whether sleep apnea, a common sleep disorder among Veterans, leads to worsening kidney function and poor quality of life for Veterans with kidney disease. Ultimately, slowing kidney disease progression and improving quality of life not only will mean better health outcomes for our Veterans but also will reduce health care costs.
- 10:00 a.m.** *Is Testosterone Replacement Safe and Effective for Older Men?* **Stephen E. Borst, PhD**
There is currently a debate regarding testosterone therapy for older men who are low in testosterone. Dr. Borst will discuss the topic in general and present findings from his recently completed clinical trial of testosterone plus Proscar in older Veterans. As many as 20% of older male Veterans could benefit from this therapy, should questions about safety and effectiveness be answered. This clinical trial shows that testosterone plus finasteride (Proscar®) is effective in building muscle strength and bone mineral density without causing prostate enlargement. However concerns remain over possible cardiovascular risks of testosterone treatment.

10:20 a.m. *Center of Innovation on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (CINDRR)* **William C. Mann, OTR, PhD**
Diane C. Cowper Ripley, PhD
Charles E. Levy, MD

Healthcare is undergoing major changes, with services moving from traditional inpatient environments to communities and homes. Similarly, technology is transforming both patient interventions and service delivery, and there is increased emphasis on evidence-based practice and outcomes measurement using new and innovative tools. Recognizing this transformation and building upon a successful record of health services research in neurological health conditions that can result in disability, the *Center of Innovation for Disability and Rehabilitation Research (CINDRR)* was established on October 1, 2013. CINDRR is a multi-institutional Center residing in VISN 8, with sites in Gainesville and Tampa, FL. CINDRR engages in research to identify and develop strategies for improving inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services, as well as the long term management of disability, including issues that impact family members, for Veterans of all ages with disability. This presentation will provide an overview of the Center, the research being conducted, and the potential impact of the research findings on the quality of life and functional outcomes for Veterans with disability.

10:40 a.m. *Opportunities for VA Research Collaboration with the University of Florida Health Cancer Center* **Paul Okunieff, MD**

Dr. Okunieff is the Director of the UF Health Cancer Center and will describe Center programs and resources. He will also share what resources are available to physicians and scientists of the VA involved in cancer care and research and collaboration opportunities for involvement with the UF Health Cancer Center.

11:00 a.m. *New Insights in the Understanding and Therapy for Traumatic Brain Injury* **Floyd J. Thompson, PhD**

Dr. Thompson's research program is part of the Brain Rehabilitation Research Center research mission of discovery and therapy development for traumatic injury of the brain and spinal cord. Dr. Thompson will present research that reveals even mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) can result in injury of a brainstem region that is important for regulating mood, memory, balance, motor reflexes, and pain. Listeners will learn how TBI causes a cluster of short and possibly long term problems such as Parkinson's or Alzheimer's disease and what researchers are doing to specifically develop new therapies to address these problems.

11:20 a.m. AO Comments and Spotlight on the Research Poster Exhibit **Marie W. Johnson, MM**

11:25 a.m. Recognition and Closing Remarks **Stephen Nadeau, MD**

11:30 a.m. Interactive Research Poster Exhibit **Everyone welcome to visit each poster display.**

For more information, contact Helen Vaillancourt, Event Coordinator
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Email helen.vaillancourt@va.gov or visit www.northflorida.va.gov/research/